

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 34

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION WASHDC INFO SAIGON FROM USDEL FRANCE
MAR 30.

QUOTE USDEL FRANCE 9012

EE. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: VIS, PINT

SUBJ: GVN- PRG BILATERALS: FOURTH PLENARY

1. SUMMARY: IN PREPARED STATEMENTS FOR FOURTH PLENARY
SESSION OF GVN- PRG BILATERAL TALKS, BOTH SIDES PRESENTED
SUMMARIES OF SITUATION SIXTY DAYS AFTER ACCORD, EACH
CLAIMING SCRUPULOUS COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS OF PARIS AGREE-
MENT AND BLAMING OTHER FOR CONTINUED FIGHTING IN VIET- NAM
AND CONTINUED IMPASSE IN PARIS DISCUSSIONS. GVN DEL VIEN
WENT ON TO REITERATE STANDING GVN AGENDA PROPOSAL,
AND AGAIN INVITED PRG TO JOIN A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR
WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM SVN. BALANCE OF
PRG DEL HIEU' S PRESENTATION CRITICIZED GVN FOR SEEKING
TO SWEEP UNDER RUG QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS,
AND FOR BASING ITS ACTIONS ON " FOUR NOES" POLICY RATHER
THAN PROVISIONS OF AGEEMENT. FIFTH PLENARY WILL BE HELD
APRIL 3. END SUMMARY.

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2. PLENARY PRESENTATIONS:

GVN: VIEN' S BILAN OF SITUATION AT X PLUS 60 NOTED

THAT GVN, IN CONTRAST TO COMMUNISTS, HAD COMPLIED FULLY WITH TERMS OF AGREEMENT, CITING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) ALL NVA/ VC PW' S HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED (WHEREAS LESS THAN 5000 OF ALMOST 32,000 ARVN PW' S WERE RETURNED); (B) LIST OF 5,081 CIVILIAN DETANINEES HAS BEEN COMPILED, TO WHICH GVN WILLING TO ADD OTHER PERSONS " WHOM YOU CONSIDER AS CIVILIAN AGENTS WORKING FOR YOUR SIDE" (WHILE PRG HAS OFFERED TO RETURN ONLY 2 00 OF SOME 60,000 CIVILIANS IT HAS DETAINED); (C) GVN HAS REQUESTED CEASE- FIRE, ACTING ONLY IN SELF- DEFENSE, AND HAS FULLY COOPERATED WITH JMC AND ICCS (WHEREAS PRG, CLAIMING ITS FORCES ARE " NOBILE", HAVE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEIR LOCATIONS, IN CONTRAVENTION OF AGREEMENT, HAS TRIED TO OCCUPY AREAS UNDER GVN CONTROL, AND HAS OBSTRUCTED WORK OF ICCS AND JMC) ; AND (D) GVN HAS ADOPTED REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO BILATERAL TALKS WHILE PRG STALLS.

3. VIEN ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER SUCH STALLING TACTICS MIGHT BE DESIGNED TO GAIN TIME WHILE NEW COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IS READIED, AND OPINED THAT ANY SUCH DARK ATTEMPT WOULD BE SMASHED. HE ONCE AGAIN URGED SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND DEFENDED GVN AGENDA PROPOSALS AS BASED STRICTLY ON LETTER OF AGREEMENT (ARTICLES 12 AND 13). VIEN CONCLUDED WITH CALL TO PRG TO RESPECT CEASE- FIRE AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT AND AGIAN INVITED PRG TO JOIN IN RESOLUTION DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL OF ALL EXTERNAL FORCES FROM SOUTH VIET- NAM.

4. PRG: HIEU' S SUMMARY OF POST- CEASEFIRE SITUATION WAS MIRROR IMAGE OF VIEN' S: PRG HAD " CLOSELY COOPERATED" WITH ICCS, STRICTLY RESPECTED CEASE- FIRE TERMS, RETURNED ALL US AND GVN PW' S, MADE EVERY EFFORT TO GUARANTEE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES TO POPULATION UNDER IT CONTROL, AND BROUGHT ATTITUDE OF GREAT GOOD WILL TO BILATERAL TALKS. GVN, AND HIEU, AIDED AND ABETTED BY US , HAD " GRAVELY, SYSTEMATICALLY AND CONTINUALLY VIOLATED FUNDAMENTAL CLAUSES OF THE ACCORD". US HAD INCREASED NUMBERS OF ITS " DISGUISED CIVILIANS", CONTINUED ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS, AND SUPPORTED GVN IN ITS VIOLATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEASE- FIRE. GVN MISDEEDS INCLUDED ENCROACHMENT OPERATIONS UPON LIBERATED ZONES, INTENSIFIED " PACIFICATION" ACTIVITY, DENIAL OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CONTINUED DETENTION OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS.

5. HIEU DEMANDED THAT US AND GVN CEASE FOREGOING VIOLATIONS, CONTINUATION OF WHICH WILL RENDER POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IMPOSSIBLE. HIEU REGRETTE THAT EVEN AGREEMENT ON AGENDA HAD ELUDED BIPARTITE CONFERENCE.

THIS HE ATTRIBUTED TO GVN ATTEMPT TO " SEPARATE" QUESTION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES FROM OTHER ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT, WHEREAS IT IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY. HE DENOUNCED GVN ATTEMPTS TO " JUSTIFY" US VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT AND TO RAISE " SO- CALLED AGGRESSION FROM THE NOTH QUESTION". HIEU FURTHER DECLARED THAT PARIS AGREEMENT IN EFFECT NEGATED GVN CONSTITUTION AND LAWS, AS WELL AS " FOUR NOES" POLICY, AND SAID GVN SHOULD ABANDON THEM, BASING ITS POLICY INSTEAD ON PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT.

6. PRESS CONFERENCES: PRG: POST- PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCES GENERATED SOME HEAT BUT LITTLE LIGHT. SAU FOR PRG, AFTER REVIEWING HIEU' S REMARKS IN PLENARY, CRITICIZED PRESIDENT' S SPEECH OF MARCH 29 FOR FOCUSING ON " ALLEGED" COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT WHILE IGNORING US/ GVN MISDEEDS . THIS WILL HAVE EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING GVN TO FURTHER DISREGARD THE AGREEMENT, SAID SAU, WHO ADDED THAT PRESIDENT' S REFERENCE TO " CONSEQUENCES" OF COMMUNIST FAILURE TO ABIDE BY AGREEMENT DOES NOT FRIGHTEN VN PEOPLE.

7. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, SAU MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SVN MUST BE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION (TO REPLACE CURRENT ONE " DRAFTED BY US EMBASSY"); US HAS NOT RENOUNCED ITS INTERVENTIONIST DESIGNS, AS EVIDENCED BY CONTINUED PRESENCE OF " MORE THAN 10,000 SO- CALLED CIVILIAN ADVISERS", LARGE DAO, HUGHE CONGENS 159 MARINE GUARDS, AND AIR AND NAVAL FORCES IN THAILAND AND 7 TH FLEET; GVN " OFFER" TO RETURN ANDY CIVILIAN DETAINEES CLAIMED BY PRG AS AGENTS IS PLOT, WHICH WOULD BRING CERTAIN DEATH TO ANY PRISONER SO CLAIMED.

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8. GVN: GVN PRESS SPOKESMAN DAN EMPHASIZED VIEN' S ASSERTION THAT GVN AGENDA PROPOSALS ARE FIRMLY BASED ON LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT, AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PRG ONCE AGAIN FORSOOK PROGRESS FOR POLEMIC. HE SAID THAT VIEN, IN RESPONSE TO HIEU' S COMPLAINTS RE CIVILIAN ADVISERS IN SVN, NOTED THAT JEC TALKS NOW UNDER WAY WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO SIMILAR PRESENCE IN NVN AND SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT PRG REFRAIN FROM FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUCH EXTRANEIOUS MATTERS.

9. IN Q & A, DAN SAID THAT LISTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD NOT BEEN EXCHANGED, ALTHOUGH GVN HAD PREPARED SUCH A LIST (5,081 PERSONS). DAN SAID THAT SINCE GVN WAS BURNED ON THIS ISSUE ONCE BEFORE (WHEN IT TURNED OVER COMPLETE LIST OF NVA/ VC PW' S AND GOT ONLY IMCOMPLETE

LIST IN RETURN, WITH EXCHANGES TAKING PLACE ON THAT
BASIS) , IT WILL EXCHANGE LIST OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES
ONLY WHEN PRG COMES UP WITH SOMETHING MORE PLAUSIBLE
THAN THE 200 THE NOW CLAIM AS TOTAL HELD. IN ANSWER TO
OTHER QUESTIONS, DAN SAID THAT PROGRESS IN BIPARTITE
TALKS IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON PRG ATTITUDE, WHICH HAS
NOT THIS FAR BEEN SERIOUS. THUS, GVN SUSPICION THAT
COMMUNISTS ARE STALLING IN PARIS WHILE PREPARING NEW
OFFENSIVES IN SVN IS JUSTIFIED.
ISHAM UNQUOTE RUSH

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